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Communist International

Material supply of the workers

Petrograd

1922

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Workers of the World, unite!

MATERIAL SUPPLY OF THE WORKERS

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Material Supply of the Workers.

a) The Food Supply.

For the purpose of supplying additional food to workers engaged in the most important branches of national economy a certain amount of food is distributed on food cards by the Food Commissariat; there is a special commission dealing with this. This additional ration is somewhat larger in the producing provinces than it is in the consuming provinces. In the producing provinces 2 pounds of bread and 60 ounces of vegetables are supplied where four hours of overtime is done. One pound and three quarters of bread and 48 ounces of vegetables for 2 hours of overtime, and a pound and a half of bread and 48 ounces of vegetables where there is no overtime. The workers also receive additional products besides the above mentioned ration on special cards which are supplied to them but are never given to the ordinary town population.

In March 1920, 256,753 workers were enrolled for additional rations in 15 producing provinces and 874,058 workers in 29 consuming provinces. This number somewhat increased in April. Altos gether additional rations were given to the worker.

of 1505 enterprises of the following principal industries:

Textile	285,503 men.
Chemical	54,834 „
Metal	125,165 „
War (for defense, powder, shell, gun, aviation, etc.) .	264,489 „
Mining.	156,638 „
Building	69,403 „

The rest was distributed to the various Central and Chief State departments. The above mentioned figure does not inlude: 800,000 railway workers and employees who are receiving 25 pounds of flour per head monthly and 18 pounds for each member of the family, as well as 285,000 water transport workers who are receiving as much as the above railway ration.

The supply of additional rations to the above mentioned group of workers was carried out to the extent of 50% for the month of March; it is expected to be 65% for April, and as to the subsequent months it is expected to be carried out to the full 100% norm.

b) Supply of Workers and Employees with Footgear and Clothing in Connection with Labour Protection.

Every trade union provides for purposes of Labour protection certain forms of clothing and boots for corresponding trades; thus, for instance, boots — for water workers; special gloves to blacksmiths; felt top boots to watchmen; leather

outfits to chauffers, etc. The above mentioned form of outfit is considered as a technical necessity of the enterprise in question, and supplied free of charge for defined periods, remaining all the time the property of the factory administration. Labour and trade union inspectors are in charge of the supply of workers and employees with special clothing and foot wear.

In addition to the above mentioned special articles of clothing provided for in the trade union bylaws, every person employed in physical labour is supplied free of charge with so called general working clothes consisting of two changes of blouse and trousers and of a change of underwear for special dirty work; this latter is issued in accordance with trade union regulations as confirmed by the Protection of Labour Department.

All the above mentioned clothing remains the property of the enterprise in question and after work is kept in special closets.

The clothing and foot wear mentioned both for special and for ordinary working purposes is supplied to the workers by the general State organs, viz., the People's Food Commissariat, the Central Textile Department, the Chief Leather Department and so on, as directed by the Supply Department of the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions known as the "Prosodezhda". This institution registers all the materials which it obtains according to the general State plan of the Utilisation Committee of the Supreme Council of Public Economy and distributes all the reserves of boots and clothing to the various Head Departments and Central Departments, in which distribution it is guided not only by the consideration of the necessity of supplying one or another group of workers according

to the estimates but also by the importance of the said industry to the State. The general rule is to supply first of all the more important workers, this is actually decided by the collegiate of the Supply Department in which the trade unions and representatives of the Supreme Council of Public Economy and of the Labour Commissariat participate.

For the supply of general working clothes the Department is supplied with 50,000,000 yards of various cloth with the corresponding amount of trimmings; there are also supplied 3,300,000 yards of cotton material (cotton. print, etc.) for overalls, aprons and so forth; four and a half million yards of rain-proof material for overcoats, gloves etc., and six and a half million yards of cotton cloth for underwear. This is based on the computation of seven and a half yards for upper shirts (blouses) and trousers and six and a half yards for one pair of underwear. Altogether every workman is supplied with two changes of working clothes absorbing 15 yards of material; every change is supposed to last from three to six months. The number of workers has been reckoned in accordance with information supplied by the Head State Departments and the trade unions;

Water Transport	185,000 men.
Mining (not including the Don Basin, Siberia and Ural which count 120,000 men).	45,000 „
Wood-working Industry . .	50,000 „
Railway Transport (not including the Ukraine, Siberia and Turkestan which together count 400,000 workers and employees)	500,000 „

Leather	42,000 men.
Metal	400,000 „
Medical-Sanitary	300,000 „
Post and Telegraph	90,000 „
Food	114,000 „
Printers.	75,000 „
Paper manufacture	32,400 „
Firemen	124,000 „
Art workers	140,000 „
Workers on Soviet farms. .	100,000 „
Sugar manufacture (not including the Ukraine) . .	30,000 „
Glass and China	44,000 „
Builders	142,000 „
Textile Industry	527,800 „
Tobacco „	30,000 „
Transport workers	100,000 „
Chemical Industry	110,000 „
Cement	15,000 „
Municipal workers.	80,000 „
Timber workers	350,000 „
Lumberman	50,000 „
Agriculture	200,000 „
Total. . . .	3,876,200 men.

The Clothing Supply Department of the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions has supplied to the various Head Departments, Central Departments and Commissariats of the trustified industries and to the trade unions of the non-trustified and private industries 42 million yards of cloth for working clothes and 4 millon yards for underwear. The largest issues were to the following Head State Departments:

Water Department . . .	4,125,500	yards
Coal „ . . .	1,594,590	„
Timber „ . . .	407,500	„
People's Commissariat for Communications (for the railwaymen) . . .	7,585,000	„
Leather Industry Department	441,669	„
Machine Construction Department	884,342	„
Central Administration of Artillery Works . . .	382,972	„
Chief War Engineering Department	931,172	„
Commissariat of Public Health	654,600	„
Chief Department of Sanitary Administration.	653,950	„
Fish Department	391,100	„
Printing "	789,250	„
Art Workers	326,000	„
Post and Telegraph . .	1.322,200	„
Glass Department . . .	495,325	„
Department of Public High Roads	778,145	yards
Builders	1,842,000	„
Textile	3,563,864	„
Central Administration of Artillery (Chemical) Works	441,043	„
Chief Tailoring Department	376,865	„
People's Commissariat for Agriculture	1,526,560	„
Central Administration for Railway Fuel Supply	692,550	„

To the Trade Unions of the province of Orenburg	300,000	yards.
To the Trade Unions of the province of Petrograd	3,500,000	„

The material set aside for the above mentioned institutions by the Clothing Supply Dapartment has been delivered to the extent of 60%, i. e., about 28 millions have already been delivered; the remaining quantity is shortly to be delivered by the depots of the Textile Department.

Out of the material received the Head Departments and the Central Institutions have delivered about 20% to the Central Tailoring Department for clothing purposes; the remaining quantity was retained by the various Departments (the Commissariat of Communications, the Water Department, the Central Administration of Artillery Works, the Chief War Engineering Department and others) in order to make it up independently in view of the fact that the Chief Tailoring Department found it impossible to cope with all the work which had to be performed.

The Central and Head State Departments also found it impossible to organise a centralised tailoring-workshop; it was recently found necessary therefore to send ready cut material or even uncut material to the trade unions, so that the latter arrange the sewing in the town and provincial sewing and tailoring workshops, and in urgent cases the material was handed to the workers who had to find means of their own to turn out the finished article of clothing.

In view of its inability to cope with the task in hand, the Central Tailoring and Sewing Department was substituted by the war organised "Cen-

tra. Clothing Department". This latter is at the present time engaged on work for the various Central and Chief Departments.

The programme of work for 1920 will be carried out by the Chief Clothing Department not under the direction of the Central and Head Departments but under that of the Clothing Supply Department of the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions which is using up all the material supplied for the manufacture of working clothes of a form and pattern confirmed by the Commissariat of Labour, (some of the latest fashions are the "English", the "American", the "international", as well as the ordinary blouse and so forth). The Central and Chief Departments will receive not material but ready made outfits in accordance with the estimates and demands of the Clothing Supply Department. Of the remaining material of the 1919 estimate the Clothing Supply Department gave the Chief Clothing Department in April orders for the supply of the following articles:

Rubber gloves	500,000	pair
Coats	100,000	„
Aprons	100,000	„
Hooded cloaks	50,000	„
Rainproof coats	30,000	„
General working clothes (blouses and trousers) .	700,000	„
Skirts and blouses for women workers	100,000	„
Underwear	200,000	„

The following special clothes and foot wear were supplied to the Clothing Supply Department of the All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions:

Leather gloves—1,250,000 pair (one years supply); felt top boots—200,000, boots 40,000 pair per month and a corresponding number of other articles (knitted goods, warm underclothes, fur coats and so forth).

The number of gloves, as well as the amount of leather for aprons and top boots was supplied to the Central and Head Departments in full; the fur jackets were supplied to the amount of only 20% and boots to the amount of 50%.

At the present time the shortage of boots is very acutely felt owing to the absence of leather and to the fact that the entire boot industry is working for the supply of the army.

With the growth of the territory of Soviet Russia the number of workers who are to be supplied with special clothing and boots is also growing. The satisfactory solution of the supply problem will now depend upon the intensity of the producing organs, such as the Chief Leather Department, the Chief Fur Department, the Central Textile Department, the Chief Clothing Department and so on, as well as on the general state of the industry of Soviet Russia.

c) Soap Supply.

For Labour protection purposes, the workers of certain trades as defined by the Department of Labour Protection, are supplied with soap free of charge, to the quantity of one half to one pound of soap per man per month. The amount of soap thus supplied depends upon the nature of the work as regards dirt (blacksmiths, miners) the possibilities of contamination (tanners, skin dyers, me-

dical workers) and the possibilities of poisoning (chemists, textile workers).

Owing to the small reserve of soap a certain percentage of special soap is set aside for every industry. Workers in the mining industry are supplied at the rate of I pound per man for 50% of the entire number of workers. Medical workers receive I pound per man for 75% of the entire number of workers; men employed in the metal industry and in the railway transport—half a pound per man for 20% of the workers. Textile workers receive half a pound for 25% of the workers; chemical workers—one pouud for 50% etc.

All the remaining workers who have not received special soap receive soap for working purposes at the rate of one quarter of a pound per man per month, in addition to the rationed card soap.

For the purpose of supplying special groups of workers the Clothing Supply Department of the All-Russian Council of Trade Unions has since January 1920 supplied the latter with 10,000 poods of soap per month; there is another supply of 8,000 poods of soap for the remaining workers. For the month of April, when the production of soap was increased, the amount of soap to be used at the works of the Working Clothes Department was increased to 12,000 poods. All the orders for soap are carried out by the Chief Fats Department to the full 100%.

d) Accounts of the Chief and Central Departments for Clothes, Footgear and Soap.

All accounts for soap as well as for clothes and footgear are made in the ordinary bookkeeping

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